

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7: 00p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Arrived at 7:10p.m.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (Absent), Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Absent)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sgt. Busby, and Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilman Porter

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Reading/Approval of Public Session, Public Hearings and Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes:

- It was motioned by Councilman Raynor and seconded by Councilman Porter to approve the Regular Work Session minutes for Monday, December 8, 2010. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilman Raynor and seconded by Councilwoman Simms to the Public Session minutes for Monday, December 13, 2010. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilman Porter and seconded by Councilwoman Stephenson to approve the Closed Session minutes for Monday, December 13, 2010. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilman Raynor to approve the Special Session minutes for Monday, December 20, 2010. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. None

3. LEGISLATION

- Ordinance O-11-05 Public Works Fees was introduced by Councilwoman Elenora Simms on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 and the first reading was declared. The second reading was conducted on Monday, January 10, 2011. It was motioned by Councilwoman Simms and second by Councilwoman Stephenson to approve Ordinance O-11-05. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor, Simms, and Stephenson
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- Resolution R-11-09 Approval of SunTrust Bank Lease Purchase Financing and Acquisition of Public Works Vehicles. Resolution R-11-09 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, January 10, 2011. It was motioned by Councilwoman Simms and seconded by Councilman Porter to approve Resolution R-11-09. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor, Simms and Stephenson
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

4. REPORTS

4.1. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Grant reported that former resident and former County Councilmember Ronald V. Russell passed on January 9, 2011.
- He stated that Gloria Sistrunk had major surgery and unable to travel. She is currently out of state.
- He stated that the Crime Summit was held on November 7, 2010 at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. He has held Crime Prevention training on Saturday,

December 4, 2010 and the majority of the residents were from Ward II. He thanked Councilwoman Stephenson for her leadership.

- He stated that next Crime Prevention training will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Please encourage your neighbors to attend.
- He stated that he received a report from Park & Planning for the City Center. He stated that application submission for approval of permits would be 30-45 days.
- He attended the meeting with Councilwoman Alexander regarding the Wal-Mart on East Capitol Street. He stated the Mayor James of Capitol Heights was present at the meeting.
- He swore in the fifth female Officer Valencia Moss currently on field training for fourteen weeks.
- He stated that we will need residents to attend meeting at St. Margaret's Church in the Omega Room on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 6:30p.m., as it relates to development.

4.2. Council President Report:

- Council President Gatling stated that her report is on the table. If anyone has any questions, please see her after the Public Session.

4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-

- . Former Chief McGill reported that the month of December 2010 volunteer hours were Four Thousand One Hundred and nine (4109). The Year to Date volunteer hours are Forty One Thousand, Four hundred and Seventy five (41,475).
- The fund raising efforts are selling of t-shirts, Hall Rental, which was rented twelve (12) times from April to December 2010. We sent corporate sponsors letter.
- We responded to one fire in December on Foote Street
- Excavated three (3) people from cars.
- He encouraged everyone to practice a Fire Safety drill exit in their homes and businesses.
- They will begin CPR training the equipment cost was \$2,000 and the manikins were ordered today, Monday, January 10, 2011.
- Unfortunately, this is his last time before as Chief. Kevin Brenner will now be the new Chief effective January 6, 2011.

4.4. City Administrator Report-

- Mr. Ashton reported that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Senior Greer program will be held on January 13, 2011 at Ms. Evans home.
- He stated that the Solar panels are in the final stage of design and then the permits. He stated that he will be in contact with Bryan at Standard Solar to get a clear update.
- He stated we are on schedule and the installation is tentatively February or March, per Jim Flynn.
- He reported that the 2012 Budget Guidelines and instructions were submitted to the Department Heads and senior managers.
- The External Audit showed the revenues exceeded our expenditures due to our business model.
- The Internal Audit showed some improvements and they will start this month.
- He reported the Community Service department had arranged for Cereta Lee, Register of Wills will be in the City on January 26, 2011 to talk about Will preparation.
- AARP will host free tax preparation for low to moderate income individuals and especially for seniors every Wednesday from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. from February 2nd to April 15th, 2011.
- He stated that 90% of Business license for 2011 has been collected
- He stated the speed Cameras are now in use in Ward 2
- He stated that the Public Works new equipment training has begun and financing is in place.

4.5. Code Enforcement Officer

- Ms. Andrews was absent from the Public Session on Monday, January 10, 2011. The Code Enforcement Officer report was submitted in writing.

4.6. Finance Department

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Finance Department report was combined with the City Administrator report.

4.7. Police Department

- Chief Prue was absent from the Public Session on Monday, January 10, 2011. The Police Department report was submitted in writing.

4.8. Public Works Department

- Mr. Thompson read the written report submitted on the new street sweeping equipment. He stated that equipment should last for fifteen to twenty years as long as it is properly maintained. He said they negotiated hard to get the equipment for \$30,000 less than it was originally priced. The new drivers have been trained and certified by the manufacturer. We will be putting together a

new schedule for the sweeper to clean all Wards. We will notify the residents by the website, newsletter and posting the information in various locations.

- He stated that we had two main water line breaks due to the freezing weather. The breaks have repaired and temporary asphalt has been put over the areas. WSSC will come back at a later date to put permanent asphalt over the repaired sites.
- He reported that the City Hall now has a new roof and J.T. Services has done a fantastic job in putting in a new state of the art flat roof.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- Amanda Feggans, Ms. Feggans wanted to know the status of the advertisement and hiring of a City Administrator. She said it has been twenty (20) months. She wanted to know what the charter stated on hiring a City Administrator. Mayor Grant stated that the status is the same. The Council has reviewed applications and interview candidates. Mayor Grant stated the salary is too low. Mrs. Feggans stated that she doesn't understand. Mayor Grant stated that we have received over thirty (30) applications.
- Eugene Kennedy, Mr. Kennedy wanted to know about the abandoned cars in the Greendale area. He was told they were repaired. He drove down there to and counted about ten (10) cars. What do we expect to do with the cars? Those are our tax dollars going to waste. Mayor Grant stated the cars aren't visible from the street. He said we are cannibalizing on the cars we currently have in operation to keep repair cost low. There is a legal process to dispose of any equipment owned by the City. Mr. Kennedy stated that when he was Mayor they dispose of cars. Mayor Grant stated during your administration you paid for repairs with tax dollars too.
- Jacqui Battle, Ms. Battle stated that she is disturbed about the Ordinance O-11-05. She feels the rate and charges are outrages. Mayor Grant stated the figures are based on what other municipality are charging and we are the lowest. Mayor Grant asked does she lodge her complaints with the Federal, State or County when they increase fees. Our fiduciary responsibility is to the government. She stated that the Council will be getting laptops and she feels this is all being brought with the citizen money, but when the citizens want to do certain things they aren't providing them. She stated that Councilman Hardy isn't present and his residents are coming to her with concerns. He needs to have a Ward Meeting. Mayor Grant stated that he does have Ward Meetings.
- Wilhelmina Evans, Ms. Evans thanked the Mayor, City Council and Mr. Ashton for allowing her to be first to complete the application for the Senior Green

program. She stated that she received a Stove, Washer & Dryer, furnace microwave and humidifier.

- Mr. Ashton stated that Phase II of the Senior Green program will be in the Newsletter.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1. None

8. ANNOUNCEMENT


8.1. Maryland General Assembly Opening Session, Wednesday, January 12, 2011, Annapolis, MD at 9:00a.m.

8.2. Park & Planning Meeting Subregion IV, St. Margaret's Church, Wednesday, January 19, 2011 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

8.3. Will Preparation, Wednesday, January 26, 2011, Cereta Lee, Register of Wills, City Hall-Council Chambers at 10:00a.m.

ADJOURN- The meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk